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early part of this century by *domestic system*. It differed indeed from these as they are to be found in later centuries in Germany and England, chiefly in its concentration in the cities; but in each case, though the little *meester* may have had his journeymen and apprentice, the real *employer* of them all, in the modern sense, was the merchant through whom the work came to them. M. Pirenne remarks (p. 417) as to the weavers and fullers of Ghent, that the specifically craft organizations—the *Gewerke*, or, as they said in mediæval England, the *misteries*—were far too closely supervised by the *échevins* to be capable of being used as weapons against their rulers; “but it was different with the religious fraternities.”

Let us hope that when in his next volume he comes to deal with the constitutional changes of the period of the Arteveldes, he will draw more fully on the unprinted material to which he refers as his authority; that he will tell us more about these fraternities; and that he will enable us still better to realize the daily life of the *Weve Ambachte*.

W. J. ASHLEY.

The Foundations of England. By Sir JAMES H. RAMSAY of Bamff, Bart., M. A. (London: Swan Sonnenschein and Co. 1898. Two vols., pp. xxxiii, 553; xxiv, 509.)

“TWELVE Centuries of British History” is the sub-title of this laborious work, which aims at giving in these two volumes a complete compendium of the history of the British isles from B. C. 55 to A. D. 1154. It is obvious that such an undertaking as this would involve prolonged and tedious study; for Sir James has not only read for himself the authorities on which his narrative is based, but has plodded through a vast amount of the work of modern historians, especially of those who have added to our knowledge by their own original research. While careful to acknowledge “the greatest obligations to the works of others,” which have enabled him to place his readers abreast of the latest research, the author is no mere compiler; he has exercised throughout his own judgment, and has done so at once with marked independence and with singular freedom from prejudice and bias. If we detect a personal note, it is perhaps that of the Scotsman, in whose view Scottish history occupies a leading place; but English writers have been, perhaps, inclined to treat somewhat imperfectly the history of the northern portion of the island, so that the balance is here redressed. For the teacher of history and for the real student the special value of Sir James’s work will be found, not so much in the careful references to authorities, useful though these must prove, but in the arrangement of his volumes. An elaborate table of contents with the dates prefixed throughout is a very great convenience, as are the marginal headings to the text, in Clarendon type, and the dates at the head of each page, a point too often omitted.

That there was real want for a book of this character will hardly be denied by those who have worked at the period it covers. That period

is probably the one on which recent research has had most that is new to tell us ; but the information has been sadly scattered and often difficult to find. This is well seen in the author's earliest chapters, for he begins at an earlier period than is usual, assigning two chapters to Pre-Roman Britain, and dealing at considerable length with the time of the Roman occupation. Indeed, a uniform system of treatment enables him to give us an amount of detail far greater than that which we meet with in general histories, while avoiding the extreme diffuseness of such works as those of Mr. Freeman. His fairness and caution are well seen in his attitude towards the "great commendation" of 921. While guardedly rejecting the story as it stands, he observes that the point has been made too much of, as the overlordship of Æthelstan is clear enough. In connection with this subject, one should point out that he claims to have localized the battle of Brunanburh (an old point of difficulty) at Bourne in Lincolnshire. To battles, indeed, Sir James has devoted special attention, from that of the "Mons Graupius" downwards ; and on those of Hastings and of Lincoln he has views of his own to advance.

The period subsequent to the Norman Conquest, on which I am most at home, is the subject of his second volume. I have found it singularly free from slips and absolutely packed with information. Although political history occupies the chief place, the development of institutions, the state of society, the condition of the revenue, the changes in architecture, the foundation of religious houses, and similar subjects are among those which receive attention, while the issue of each sovereign is catalogued with special care. That Sir James's work can hope to appeal to the general reader is of course impossible : its place is on the student's shelves. The fault that has been found with it is that it is dull, that one cannot read it with pleasure. The author's style, no doubt, is ponderous, his work rather a repertory of facts than the history of which the critic dreams. But it is not given to us all to write with the brilliancy of Macaulay or of Green, or the vivacity of Professor Maitland. There is room for history of every kind, except for that which is false. For my part, I feel that gratitude is due to an author who has placed at our disposal so useful a work of reference, and has, among his other merits, devoted infinite pains to identifying persons and places. An index of fifty pages, though not absolutely exhaustive, is well-arranged and adequate. Sir James, it may be added, is now at work on the reign of Henry II., and hopes, in time, to complete his history down to the wars of the Roses, the period treated in his two volumes entitled *Lancaster and York*.

J. H. ROUND.

History of Scotland. By P. HUME BROWN. Vol. I., To the Accession of Mary Stewart. [Cambridge Historical Series.] (Cambridge : University Press. New York : The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xviii, 408.)

MR. HUME BROWN has recorded in a clear and logical fashion the narrative of the development of a Scottish nation and the turbulent inter-